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## House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 29, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Reverend Edward J. Burns, Executive Director, Secretariat for Vocations and Priestly Formation at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. offered the following prayer:

Blessed are You, Lord God of all creation, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the father of Jesus and God of us all. We thank You for the many gifts You have given us out of love. We praise You for the wonders of Your works. We now ask that You bless us.

As the Members of the United States House of Representatives reconvene after their holiday recess, we are mindful of Your many gifts of salvation and redemption. We ask now that You bless these men and women. Grant them the strength, grace, perseverance, and wisdom to carry out the task that lies ahead of them. Bless their endeavors and give success to the work of their hands.

Bless our troops who are serving our country; in particular, those men and women who are serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Guide them, protect them, and grant peace and consolation to their families.

We recognize that we do not work alone; but rather, we rely on our broth-

ers and sisters. Bless our constituents and colleagues, our friends and loved ones. May we serve faithfully in bringing forth a Nation that is just, one that keeps faith and hope alive.

We ask this in Your name. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WOLF led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### EXPLAINING OPPOSITION TO TAX RELIEF

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Madam Speaker, the number one domestic priority of this administration and this Congress is to stimulate the sluggish economy. The President's tax relief proposal will create jobs. It will grow the economy. It will spur investment and innovation in the private sector. And it will put more money into the pockets of the American men and women who earn it.

By contrast, the alternative plan being touted is insufficient, and its proponents have some explaining to do. As the President put it the other day, if they agree that tax relief creates

jobs, then why are they for a little itty bitty tax relief package?

Well, some oppose tax relief because they think the money belongs to the government instead of the people who earn it. The good news is that this is an intellectually consistent response. The bad news is, the only person in the Western Hemisphere who believes it is Fidel Castro.

Others say they worry about the deficit, but their argument contradicts itself. The budget was balanced in the 1990s through spending restraint and economic growth. Letting people keep more of their own money stimulates the economy and limits our ability to spend.

Those opposing significant tax relief would intentionally hamstring the economy and leave hundreds of billions in Washington, D.C. to be spent like a stray \$20 bill in Las Vegas, not exactly a recipe for a balanced budget.

Finally, some in Washington just attack everything that the President proposes. This, unfortunately, describes too many Democrats in Congress, more interested in griping than governing.

Madam Speaker, whether their reasons are extreme, self-contradictory, or partisan, the enemies of significant tax relief are wrong. We need real tax relief to create jobs, grow an economy that can afford all our priorities, balance the budget, and hold the line on spending. That is, after all, why the American people elected Republican leaders in the first place.

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF CORPORAL ARMANDO ARIEL GONZALEZ

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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